

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - FOR SECTION INFORMATION

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TAGS: OCON, UNWPC, SPOP

SUBJECT: WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE - WORKING GROUP ON WORLD
POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION, CHAPTER I - BACKGROUND,
AUGUST 22-23, 1974

1. IN TWO SESSIONS DEALING WITH SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AUGUST 22-23,
THE WORKING GROUP ON THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION (WPPA)
(E/CONF. 60/7) COMPLETED ACTION ON CHAPTER I, BACKGROUND TO
THE PLAN, PARAGRAPHS 1-12. SINCE THE PLAN CONSISTS OF OUR
CHAPTERS TOTALING 93 PARAGRAPHS, PROGRESS CANNOT BE DESCRIBED
AS RAPID BUT THE WG IS BEGINNING TO SETTLE DOWN. CHAPTER II
DEALS WITH PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN (PARAS. 13-14).
CHAPTER IIIN THE MOST IMPORTANT CHAPTER, DEALS WITH RECOMMENDA-
TIONS FOR ACTION (PARAS. 15-80), CHAPTER IV DEALS WITH RECOMMEN-
DATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION (PARAS 81-93).

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2. THE PROCEDURES DEVISED TO DEAL WITH THE NUMEROUS AMENDMENTS

WAS TO BREAK UP INTO INFORMAL CONTACT GROUPS IN ORDER TO COMBINE OVERLAPPING AMENDMENTS AND REACH A CONSENSUS ON LANGUAGE WHERE POSSIBLE. CARL WAHREN OF SWEDEN, A KNOWLEDGABLE SUPPORTER OF THE PLAN, SERVED AS INFORMAL CHAIRMAN OF THE CONTACT GROUPS WHICH MET AUGUST 19 AND 20 AND COMPLETED THE SYNTHESIS OF AMENDMENTS FOR CHAPTER I. THE TASK WAS COMPLICATED BY THE LACK OF PRINTED COPIES OF MOST AMENDMENTS IN MOST LANGUAGES (EXCEPTING THE ARGENTINE AMENDMENTS INTRODUCED EARLY) THE LACK OF ADEQUATE MEETING SPACE, THE LACK OF TRANSLATION FACILITIES, AND THE REFUSAL OF THE ALGERIAN CHAIRMAN TO ALLOW ANY BUT THE MOST MINIMAL CLERICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE SECRETARIAT.

3. THE SYNTHESIS OF AMENDMENTS FOR CHAPTER I, LARGELY PREPARED BY ARGENTINA, EGYPT, ETHIOPIA, INDIA, ITALY, LESOTHO, LIBERIA AND YUGOSLAVIA (E/CONF.60/WG/L.15) INCLUDED 20 INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS. THE OVERALL THRUST WAS TO EMPHASIZE SOCI-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, STRUCTURAL CHANGES, THE NEED FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (AS APPROVED BY THE SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY) AND TO WAKEN OR ELIMINATE REFERENCES TO POPULATION GROWTH OR FERTILITY CHANGE AS AN INDEPENDENT FACTOR.

4. THE PRINCIPAL CONTROVERSY AROSE OVER HOW TO HANDLE A REFERENCE TO THE PROGRAM OF ACTION ADOPTED BY THE SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. INITIALLY (20 AUGUST), ARGENTINA PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO PARAGRAPH 1 OF THE WPPA. IT READ AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE AFTER THE WORDS QUOTE SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE, END QUOTE ADD THE FOLLOWING WORDS: QUOTE THE CONCLUSIONS OF UNCTAD AT ITS THREE SESSIONS AND, ABOVE ALL, THE DECLARATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION RELATING THERETO, ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION IN APRIL 1974. END QUOTE. ON 21 AUGUST, ARGENTINA WAS JOINED BY EGYPT, ETHIOPIA, INDIA, ITALY REPEAT ITALY, LESOTHO, LIBERIA AND YUGOSLAVIA AND PUT FORWARD INSTEAD THE FOLLOWING NEW SENTENCE WHICH WOULD APPEAR AFTER THE THIRD SENTENCE IN PARAGRAPH 1: QUOTE THE DECLARATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER (LOWER CASE) AND A PROGRAM OF ACTION TO ACHIEVE IT, ADOPTED BY THE SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PROVIDE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE MOST RECENT OVERALL FRAMEWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
END QUOTE.

5. THE US DEL WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN DELETING ANY REFERENCE TO THE PROGRAM OF ACTION BUT WAS ABLE, AFTER INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS, TO PUT FORWARD SEVERAL AMENDMENTS TO THE SECOND PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD HAVE DELETED THE WORDS QUOTE ADOPTED BY END QUOTE AND THE WORDS QUOTE PROVIDE THE MOST RECENT OVERALL FRAMEWORK

FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.END QUOTE. THE FRENCH PROPOSED THESE SUB-AMENDMENTS AND U.S. AND OTHERS SPOKE IN SUPPORT DURING THE NIGHT SESSION ON AUGUST 22. AS FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS ON AGUST 23, THE ALGERIAN CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED FRENCH HAD WITHDRAWN THEIR SUB-AMENDMENTS AND THEREFORE HE ASSUMED THIS PARAGRAPH ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS. US DEL (CLAXTON) SPOKE VIGOROUSLY ON THREE OCCASIONS DURING NEXT TEN MINUTES TO EFFECT THAT EVEN THOUGH FRENCH HAD WITHDRAWN SUB-AMENDMENTS. CHAIRMAN REFUSED TO ACCEPT U.S. MOVE AND CALLED FOR A VOTE IMMEDIATELY.THE PARAGRPH, CO-SPONSORED BY EIGHT DELEGATIONS, WAS ADOPTED 55-1(US)-15.

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6. IN AN EFFORT TO FIND OUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO FRENCH ON THIS POINT, WE LEARNED THAT DELEGATE WAS TECHNICIAN, UNINSTRUCTED AND CONFUSED AND HAD WITHDRAWN HIS SUB-AMENDMENTS UNDER PRESSURE FROM ALGERIAN CHAIRMAN. EC 9 CAUCUSED SHORTLY AFTER VOTE AND AGREED THAT THEIR MEMBER STATES WOULD HAVE TO GIVE CAREFUL ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER AND REACT SWITFLY IN LIGHT OF ALGERIANS FAST GAVEL. UK ADVISED US LATER THAT THEY HAD ALSO VOTED AGAINST PARAGRAPH BUT HAD NOT BEEN COUNTED. FIFTEEN ABSTEN-

TIONS WERE WEO GROUP. WE BELIEVE THIS PARAGRAPH IS NOT PARTICULARLY DAMAGING AND THAT WE HAVE SIGNALLED OUR DETERMINATION TO FIGHT OTHER REFERENCES TO THE PROGRAM OF ACTION WHEN EFFORTS ARE MADE TO PLACE THEM IN THE WPPA.

7. THERE WAS A PROLONGED DEBATE ON AN ALGERIAN AMENDMENT TO DELETE THE WORD QUOTE ESSENTIAL END QUOTE INSCRIBED IN THE PROGRAM OF ACTION AS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIES. UPPER VOLTA FINALLY PROPOSED SUBSTITUTING THE WORD QUOTE IMPORTANT END QUOTE FOR QUOTE ESSENTIAL END QUOTE WAS SUPPORTED BY THE US AND OTHER AND FINALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACCEPTED WITHOUT A VOTE.

8. TPW SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, BACKED BY TANZANIA AND ALGERIA MOVED TO DELETE WORD QUOTE SERIOUS END QUOTE IN REFERENCE TO POPULATION GROWTH AS A SERIOUS BARRIER TO DEVELOPMENT. THE US DEL OPPOSED AMENDMENT, BUT IT WAS ADOPTED ON A VOTE OF 31-20-0 AT NIGHT SESSION AUGUST 22.

9. ARGENTINA MOVED TO DELETE THE LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 3 WHICH STATED THAT QUOTE MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S PEOPLE LIVE IN COUNTRIES WHOSE GOVERNMENT'S ARE ATTEMPTING, AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, TO REDUCE SIGNIFICANTLY THEIR RATES OF POPULATION GROWTH. END QUOTE. THE U.S. DEL OPPOSED AMENDMENT, BUT IT WAS ADOPTED BY A VOTE OF 38-35-0 FOLLOWING CONSIDERABLE PROCEDURAL IRREGULARITIES.

10. OTHER ISSUES INVOLVING DEMOGRAPHIC HISTORY AND MARXIST HISTORICAL VIEWS WERE DISCUSSED AT LENRKH BUT RESOLVED WITHOUT VOTE. THE U.S. DEL BACKED ARGENTINA AND MEXICO IN AN AMENDMENT CALLING EXTERNAL MIGRATION AN INSTRUMENT OF POPULATION POLICY.

11. IN THE DEBATES THE US DEL AND THE DELS OF THE UK, DENMARK, GUATEMALA, CANADA, SWEDEN, SINGAPORE, TURKEY, TUNISIA, NORWAY, AND THE NETHERLANDS GENERALLY OPPOSED THE ARGUMENTS OF THE VOCAL DELEGATIONS OF ALGERIA, TANZANIA, CUBA, ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL. BUT THE FORMER WERE MUCH HANDICAPPED BY THE OBVIOUS BIAS OF THE CHAIRMAN WHO CALLED ON THE ALGERIAN DELEGATE AT KEY POINTS, ENCOURAGED CONSENSUS VERISONS OF AMENDMENTS HE FAVORED AND DELIBERATELY FORCED VOTES ON OTHERS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PREVENT COMPROMISE FORMULATIONS. THE CHAIRMAN DID NOT ALLOW UN SECRETARIAT STAFF TO CLARIFY FACTUAL QUESTIONS ON POINTS HE OPPOSED AND GENERALLY IGNORED PARLIMENTARY RULES OR DELEGATIONS TO ADVANCE AN OFFICIAL ALGERIAN VIEW. THE U.S. DEL PROTESTED THE INCORRECT APPLICATION OF VOTING PROCEDURES AND FREQUENTLY URGED INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS TO SECURE CONSENSUS.

12. AT SESSION END, THE CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT ONLY AMENDMENTS

SPONSORED BY GROUPS OR SYNTHESIZED BY SUB-GROUPS WERE BEING
PRINTED AND TRANSLATED. CHAIRMAN NOTED ALREADY 180 AMENDEMENTS
FOR CHAPTER III RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION.

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13. ASIAN DELS SPOKE VERY LITTLE AT THE WG THROUGH AUGUST 22
LEAVING THE US AND WESTERN EUROPE ALMOST ALONE TO DEFEND
THE PLAN AGAINST AFRICAN, LATIN AMERICAN AND SOCIALIST
AMENDMENTS. VIGOROUS LOBBYING BY US DELS AND UNFPA STAFF
AUGUST 22-23 BEGAN TO PAY OFF AUGUST 23 WITH PHILIPPINES,
BANGLADESH, TUNISIA, GUATEMALA, UPPER VOLTA AND OTHERS
BEGINNING TO SPEAK OUT, MAKE CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS AND EVEN
COMPLAIN ABOUT THE CHAIRMAN'S TACTICS. CONTINUED LOBBYING
OVER THE WEEKEND SHOULD BEGIN TO SHIFT TIDE SO THAT SPOKEN
RECORD AT LEAST WILL MORE FAIRLY REPRESENT ACTUAL DELEGATION
BELIEFS. WE BELIEVE THAT WE AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN WARNED SUFFI-
CIENTLY IN ADVANCE THAT THE PLAN IS IN DANGER SO THAT WE CAN
ALERT OTHER DELEGATIONS AND REVERSE THE TREND.
BARNES

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